

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) The microswitch according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 11, wherein the contact arm supporting the electrostatic holding means is ~~elongate,~~ elongated.
- 3-4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The microswitch according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 11, wherein the actuating means of the microswitch comprise a thermal actuator.
6. (Previously Presented) The microswitch according to claim 5, wherein the thermal actuator comprises a heating resistor inserted in at least one end of the flexure arms.
7. (Currently Amended) The microswitch according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 11, wherein the actuating means of the microswitch comprise a piezoelectric actuator.
8. (Currently Amended) The microswitch according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 11, wherein the flexure arms are bimetal strips.
9. (Currently Amended) The microswitch according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 11, wherein the electrostatic holding means of the ~~membrane~~ contact arm comprise at least one electrode.
10. (Currently Amended) The microswitch according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 11, the electrostatic holding means being at least attached to the contact arm.
11. (Previously Presented) A microswitch comprising a deformable membrane, the microswitch comprising:
  - at least two flexure arms, each comprising two opposite ends, each end being directly attached to a substrate,

at least one contact arm arranged between the at least two flexure arms, the contact arm being independently and directly attached to each of said flexure arms in a central part of said flexure arms, the contact arm remaining substantially parallel to the substrate and deforming less than the at least two flexure arms upon actuation of the microswitch,

the at least two flexure arms and the contact arm being substantially parallel to each other in a first stable position,

the flexure arm comprising actuating means disposed adjacent to the substrate designed to deform the flexure arms, from the first stable position of the microswitch to a second stable position in such a way to establish in the second stable position an electric contact between at least a first conducting pad formed on the substrate and at least a second conducting pad arranged on the contact arm, and

complementary electrostatic holding means respectively fixedly secured to the membrane and the substrate and designed to hold the microswitch in the second stable position of the membrane.

12. (Canceled)